

Greetings fellow North American luminaires!

Following a discussion that began at the New World Luminescence conference at UCLA last September, we are pursuing the concept of a USGS-based and supported community website and email list-server. These ideas were inspired by the need to increase the “usability” of luminescence dating, keep each other better informed, and by the success of similar projects involving other chronometers (i.e. the CRONUS project). As was largely agreed on by participants at the meeting, establishment of a basic website and community email list are the first steps towards accomplishing this and spurring growth towards a community-wide project of larger scale.

Our vision of a community based website involves the following:

- ✓ A location where embraced tools (such as calculation spreadsheets for the age calculation models, equivalent dose plotting programs) are hosted and freely available
- ✓ A luminescence-centric news and blog highlighting developments in the technique and research spotlights
- ✓ A database of labs in North America with contact information and resources for researchers interested in utilizing the technique
- ✓ Hosting and sign-up for a Luminescence geochronology email list-server

We have attached a figure outlining the general structure of this website. As this is a community-focused project, we are very interested in your opinions regarding the website creation and content, an email list, and future directions for this project. In addition, we are interested in your submissions of useful material to be included on the website.

Please contact us at hgray@usgs.gov or smahan@usgs.gov by October 31st with your information, suggestions, or submissions. We anticipate having a fully on-line version by Thanksgiving.

All the best, USGS Luminescence Geochronology Laboratory

